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New Registry Set Categories Now Open

Posted on 2/1/2005

Here are the latest additions...

Here are the latest additions:

- Coronet \$2.50 proof gold issues
- Coronet \$20 proof gold issues
- US Colonial Issues, Complete
- New Jersey Coppers of 1786-1788
- Massachusetts Oak Tree 1660-1667
- Gobrecht Dollars (Red Book issues) 1836-1839

Stay tuned for more additions!

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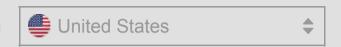








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NGC Certifies Eliasberg World Gold

Posted on 2/1/2005

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Collection Includes Numerous Great Rarities

Nearly 3,000 gold coins and medals from the estate of Louis Eliasberg, Sr. have been certified by NGC. The collection is simply amazing in its richness and broad range.

Featuring gold coins from ancient times through the mid-20th Century, the Eliasberg Collection has been off the market for decades. These pieces will be offered at public auction April 18-19 by American Numismatic Rarities of Wolfeboro, NH.

The nucleus of this collection was obtained by the late Mr. Eliasberg in 1942 with his purchase en bloc of the collection assembled by John H. Clapp. While Clapp was a specialist in Latin American gold coins, making this area of the collection particularly extensive, a wide variety of other world gold coins and medals are also included.

"There's something for everyone in this collection," stated Kenneth Krah, NGC's authority on world coinage. "This was a highlight of my career in handling world coins. Nowhere else have so many rarities and coins of such quality resided in one place."

Among the Asian rarities represented are a 1908 5-won piece grading MS-66, as well as 10-won and 20-won coins dated 1906 and grading MS-66 and MS-65, respectively.



From Australia is included the rare 1852 Adelaide one-pound coin, Krause-Mishler #2, grading an impressive MS-65. This coin is seldom seen in Mint State, and it's the finest seen by NGC.



European colonial rarities include gem proof examples of the 1895 10-mark and 20-mark coins of German New Guinea. Each piece grades a glittering PF-65.

Among the many European rarities is an undated 50-zecchini piece of Venice coined during the years 1763-78. Described by Krah as "superb for the issue," this lovely coin is nearly Mint State and was certified as AU-55 by NGC.



The Eliasberg Collection features too many amazing Latin American coins to highlight them all, but the standout rarity is perhaps the 4-escudos piece of Colombia dated 1755NR S. The discovery specimen, this fabulous coin has been certified by NGC as AU-53 and is featured at the American Numismatic Rarities Web site.



"It was a memorable experience to certify this portion of the famous Eliasberg Collection," observed Mark Salzberg, NGC Chairman. "World coins are a growing part of the overall coin market, and the Eliasberg Collection is guaranteed to make some new converts."

The Eliasberg world gold coins are included in NGC's hardcopy and online editions of its *World Census Report*. Each Eliasberg coin is listed separately from the general certified population for its respective issue. The hardcopy edition of this book may be ordered from NGC at \$25, postpaid. The online version is available free of charge at the NGC Web site www.NGCcoin.com.

Speaking on behalf of American Numismatic Rarities, President Chris Karstedt was delighted to be working with NGC on such a significant offering. "Each Eliasberg coin comes with a beautiful Photo Certificate to permanently establish the pedigree on every piece. This was a project that required much research and attention. The expertise and professionalism provided by NGC, as well as their extraordinary customer service, has contributed greatly in bringing this collection to market."

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NGC Certifies Garrett 1804 Dollar

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Numismatic Guaranty Corporation is pleased to announce that it has recently graded and encapsulated the famous Garrett specimen of the 1804 silver dollar.

Numismatic Guaranty Corporation is pleased to announce that it has recently graded and encapsulated the famous Garrett specimen of the 1804 silver dollar. Dubbed the "King of American Coins," the coin has resided in the Laura Sommer Collection for many years.

Graded PF-55 by NGC, this coin's last public appearance was a quarter century ago. It was featured as Lot 698 in Bowers & Ruddy Galleries' auction sale of the Garrett/Johns



Hopkins University Collection in March 1980. An example of the Class III 1804 dollar, it is a U.S. Mint-made restrike from the mid-19th Century and one of only six examples known.

With an impressive pedigree, this 1804 silver dollar first surfaced in 1875 in the possession of John Haseltine, who is believed to have discreetly placed it with an Austrian auction house to mask its recent Mint origin. It was acquired by O. H. Berg at that time, and for many years it was known as the Berg Specimen. George W. Cogan purchased the 1804 dollar in Haseltine's 1883 auction of the Berg Collection for placement with his client, railroad baron T. Harrison Garrett. Upon Garrett's untimely death in 1888, the coin passed to his son, Robert, who later traded it to his brother John in 1919. It was included in the estate of John Work Garrett as willed to the Johns Hopkins University in 1942. The coin remained with the university until the entire coin collection was sold in four spectacular sales during 1979-81.

Laura Sommer selected NGC to grade the coin, as she believes it has set a fine

standard for collectors and investors. She also appreciates the work NGC has done over the years to help clean up the industry, as she remembers a time when there were few standards and where the business of numismatics was "caveat emptor."



Arrangements for Ms. Sommer to have her coin graded were made by Dr. Richard A. Bagg and Melissa Karstedt of American Numismatic Rarities of Wolfeboro, NH through the assistance of Rick Montgomery and Mark Salzberg of NGC. Ms. Sommer has been a client of companies under the direction of Q. David Bowers for many years.

Previously, she participated in the "Somerset Collection Sale" as one of the main consignors. Along with the famous 1804 dollar, over the years she has collected many other fabulous rarities, including a bronze 1943 cent, a steel 1944 cent, an Uncirculated 1794 dollar, the incredibly rare 1884 and 1885 trade dollars, several stellas and many superb patterns. Also assisting was Bob Brueggeman, executive director of the PNG and president of Positive Protection with security for both NGC and Ms. Sommer.

Mark Salzberg, Chairman of NGC, is pleased that Ms. Sommer selected NGC to certify her rare and very famous coin. "It says a lot that a person as knowledgeable as Laura Sommer would seek out NGC," observed Salzberg. "She's someone who always does her homework, whatever the subject, and she determined that NGC was the best company to entrust with her 1804 dollar."

Ms. Sommer, one of the first woman stockbrokers and investment bankers on Wall Street, recognizes that there are very few women involved in numismatics and believes the addition of more would serve the business well. A born humorist, she wrote a column for Coin World in the 1980s on the humorous side of coin collecting. Personally, she has always had a keen sense of history which she has used as a jumping off point in the pursuit of her enjoyment of the hobby. Integral to her collecting persona is the acquisition of coins that make her heart beat, as she prefers those items that are out of the mainstream of most collectors' interests. As she puts it, "I look for the road less traveled."

The 1804 dollar has been certified by NGC with the Garrett-Sommer pedigree. No plans have been announced by Ms. Sommer for her coin.

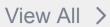






























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NGC Grading Onsite at Baltimore

Posted on 2/1/2005

NGC will offer Onsite Grading and Encapsulating at the Suburban/Washington Baltimore Show March 10th and March 11th, 2005.

NGC will offer Onsite Grading and Encapsulating at the Suburban/Washington Baltimore Show March 10th and March 11th, 2005. In addition to the \$100 and \$65 Same Day show services normally offered, NGC will also run a \$40 Same Day Gold Special. Please read below for complete details:

\$100 Same Day Special:

\$100 per coin for all coins over \$1500 in value

\$65 Same Day Special:

\$65 per coin for all coins valued at \$1500 or less

\$40 Same Day Gold Show Special:

\$40 per coin for all Gold coins valued at \$1000 or less; 5 coin minimum

Guaranteed delivery within four hours of submission at shows may be purchased for \$150 per coin under NGC's Expedite Service.

On Wednesday, March 9 submissions for \$100, \$65 and Gold Same Day services will be accepted from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Sheraton in the Sassafras room. These submissions will be processed Thursday, March 10.

In addition, submissions for Same Day services will be accepted during regular show hours on Thursday and Friday, March 10-11. Coins for the Gold service will be returned no later than the close of the show on Friday, March 11. Please check with NGC show representatives for daily cut-off times.

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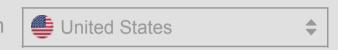








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David Lange



The double eagle, or twenty-dollar piece, was a late arrival to the family of United States coins. The drafters of the Mint Act of 1792 never imagined the need for such a high value piece, nor could they have imagined that the nation would ever have enough domestic gold to undertake such a coinage. But circumstances change, and Congress at one point in the 1870s envisioned gold coins valued at fifty and one hundred dollars!

In actual practice, however, the double eagle proved to be the highest denomination ever coined for circulation. Its introduction resulted from the vast quantity of gold recovered from California beginning in 1848. The supply of gold from California was so great that it depressed the price of this metal as measured in silver. This prompted the hoarding of silver coins, a practice that lasted until 1853, when their weight was reduced just enough to permit them to circulate once again.

In the meantime, Congress determined that more of the California gold had to be put into coin form so as to reduce its oversupply in the bullion market. Bankers and customs agents suggested that pieces valued at twenty dollars would be easier to coin, count and store than their equivalent value in smaller coins, so this denomination was adopted in 1849. Unlike the gold dollar, authorized at the same time, the double eagle was not ready for mass production that year, and the first coins for circulation were dated 1850.

The gold dollar and the double eagle share a common obverse design which features a classical bust of Liberty wearing a coronet inscribed with her name. She is surrounded by 13 stars--indicative of the original American states. On the double eagle alone, the date is below the bust. The reverse of the twenty, however, is more elaborate than that of its smaller brother. A rather ornate heraldic eagle dominates the reverse. Clutching the traditional arrows of defense and the olive branch of peace, the eagle bears upon its breast the Union shield. This shield is flanked by elaborate scrolls inscribed with the legend E PLURIBUS UNUM. Above the eagle are thirteen stars arranged in an oval form, surmounted by a glory of rays. Around the periphery are the legends UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and the value TWENTY D. Mintmarks, if any, appear below the eagle's tailfeathers.

Both coins are the work of U.S. Mint Chief Engraver James Barton Longacre. His original obverse model for the double eagle proved to be too high in relief, only patterns surviving of the 1849 issue. It appears that this problem was solved in a very simple manner. On the double eagles coined 1850-58, Longacre's initials J.B.L., which were placed at the truncation of Liberty's neck, typically are cut off at their bottoms. This suggests that the obverse master die he created in 1849 was simply reduced in depth by polishing the field down until the cavity formed by Liberty's bust became shallower. This had the effect of obliterating the bottom of his initials, which had been positioned on the truncation of the bust with the higher relief portrait in mind. A new obverse master hub was introduced for this coin type in 1859, and subsequent issues show the initials placed a bit to the left of their former position and more or less complete.

Shortly thereafter, at the beginning of 1861's coinage, a modification was made to the reverse of this coin type by Assistant Engraver Anthony C. Paquet. His modified reverse is most easily distinguished by its tall, narrow letters. When coining commenced with the new reverse it was quickly determined that the border was too narrow with respect to that of the obverse for proper striking and stacking, and production at Philadelphia was halted immediately. Orders were dispatched to the New Orleans and San Francisco Mints to cease any use of the Paquet reverse dies, but the order reached the latter city too late to prevent the issue of more than 19,000 pieces.

The reverse was again modified slightly with the addition of the motto IN GOD WE TRUST in 1866. Numismatist Tom DeLorey has pointed out that these letters were seemingly added with hand punches and vary in position a bit from one die to another, at least on the 1866 coins. This suggests that the work was hurried, the motto being added to the master matrices only later. Also distinctive from

earlier double eagles, the shield now featured a curved shape that was in keeping with the shields seen on the new two- and five-cent pieces.

Several coin denominations received makeovers in the years 1875-77, the most obvious of these changes being those made to the double eagle. Beginning with the coinage of 1877, the bust of Liberty was titled to the left, making it more centered in the field, and her hair was rendered in much greater detail than on previous issues. For the reverse, the denomination was finally spelled in full as TWENTY DOLLARS. That such a change was made solely to the double eagle indicates this coin's importance in international commerce. In this form the Coronet Liberty double eagle remained in production as late as 1907.

David W. Lange's column "USA Coin Album" appears monthly in Numismatist, the official publication of the American Numismatic Association.

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